

1 AN ACT in relation to uniformed agents.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Peace Officer Fire Investigation Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 1 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2910/1) (from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 501)

7 Sec. 1. Peace Officer Status.

8 (a) Any person who is a sworn member of any organized  
9 and paid fire department of a political subdivision of  
10 Illinois this-State and is authorized to investigate fires or  
11 explosions for such political subdivision, or who is employed  
12 by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to determine the  
13 cause, origin and circumstances of such fires or explosions  
14 that are suspected to be arson or arson-related crimes, may  
15 be classified as a peace officer by the political subdivision  
16 or agency employing such person. A person so classified shall  
17 possess the same powers of arrest, search and seizure and the  
18 securing and service of warrants as sheriffs of counties, and  
19 police officers within the jurisdiction of their political  
20 subdivision. While in the actual investigation and matters  
21 incident thereto, such person may carry weapons as may be  
22 necessary, but only if that person has satisfactorily  
23 completed (1) a training program offered or approved by the  
24 Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board which  
25 substantially conforms to standards promulgated pursuant to  
26 the Illinois Police Training Act and "An Act in relation to  
27 firearms training for peace officers", approved August 29,  
28 1975, as amended; or in the case of employees of the Office  
29 of the State Fire Marshal, a training course approved by the  
30 Department of State Police which also substantially conforms  
31 to standards promulgated pursuant to "An Act in relation to

1 firearms training for peace officers", approved August 29,  
2 1975, as amended; and (2) a course in fire and arson  
3 investigation approved by the Office of the State Fire  
4 Marshal pursuant to the Illinois Fire Protection Training  
5 Act. Such training need not include exposure to vehicle and  
6 traffic law, traffic control and accident investigation, or  
7 first aid, but shall include training in the law relating to  
8 the rights of persons suspected of involvement in criminal  
9 activities.

10 Any person granted the powers enumerated in this Section  
11 may exercise such powers only during the actual investigation  
12 of the cause, origin and circumstances of such fires or  
13 explosions that are suspected to be arson or arson-related  
14 crimes.

15 (b) The State Fire Marshal must authorize to each  
16 employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal who is  
17 exercising the powers of a peace officer a distinct badge  
18 that, on its face, (i) clearly states that the badge is  
19 authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and (ii)  
20 contains a unique identifying number. No other badge shall  
21 be authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

22 (Source: P.A. 91-883, eff. 1-1-01.)